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August 18, 2000

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 789-5506 **INTERNET ADDRESS:** RMILLIEN@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Box Patent Application

Re:

U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)

Appl. No. To be assigned; Filed: August 18, 2000

A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating

Natural Gas Contracts Using Weather-Based Metrics

Inventors:

Roberto C. MACHADO, Jr., Paul M. CORBY, and

Bruce H. FRECH

Our Ref:

1481.0240000

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

- 1. USPTO Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form PTO/SB/05;
- 2. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating Natural Gas Contracts Using Weather-Based Metrics

and naming as inventors:

Roberto C. MACHADO, Jr., Paul M. CORBY, and Bruce H. FRECH

the application comprising:



Commissioner for Patents August 18, 2000 Page 2

- a. specification containing:
 - i. <u>27</u> pages of description prior to the claims;
 - ii. <u>4</u> pages of claims (<u>6</u> claims);
 - iii. a one (1) page abstract;
- b. Eight (8) sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-3, 4A-B, 5-8);
- 3. 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) Authorization to Treat a Reply As Incorporating An Extension of Time (in duplicate); and
- 4. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) without Declaration and without filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Raymond Millien

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 43,806

0240000.pto

Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Attorney Docket No. 1481.0240000 First Inventor or Application Roberto C. MACHADO, Jr. UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL Identifier (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR § 1.53(b)) A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Title Valuating Natural Gass Contracts Using Weather-Based Express Mail Label No. APPLICATION ELEMENTS Assistant Commissioner for Patents ADDRESS TO: ee MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents. Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231 1. * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) 6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) (Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing) 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if 2. 🛛 Specification [Total Pages __32_] applicable, all necessary) (preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the Invention Descriptive title of the Invention
 Cross References to Related Applications
 Background of the Invention
 Brief Summary of the Invention
 Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 Detailed Description a. Computer Readable Copy b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) Claim(s) c. Statement verifying identity of above copies - Abstract of the Disclosure ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 8] 3. 🔀 Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 4. 🔲 Oath or Declaration [Total Pages ____ 9. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney a. Newly executed (original or copy) (when there is an assignee) 10. English Translation Document (if applicable) b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) ☐ Copies of IDS Citations [Note Box 5 below] Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) 12. Preliminary Amendment Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b). 13. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized) ☐ Statement filed in prior 14. The *Small Entity Statement(s) (PTO/SB/09-12) 5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) application, Status still proper The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the and desired disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) reference therein. (if foreign priority is claimed) 16. Other: 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) Authorization *NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 14: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. §1.28). 17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment: ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional □Continuation-in-Part (CIP) of prior application No: / Prior application information: Examiner Group/Art Unit: 18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Customer Number or Correspondence or Bar Code Label (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here) address below STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C. NAME Attorneys at Law ADDRESS Suite 600, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W. CITY Washington ZIP CODE 20005-3934 USA **TELEPHONE** (202) 371-2540 **COUNTRY** (202) 371-2600 FAX NAME (Print/Type) | Raymond/Milien Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 43,806 SIGNATURE Date

Burden Hour Statement: this form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Machado, Jr. et al.

Appl. No. To be assigned

Filed: August 18, 2000

For:

A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating Natural Gas Contracts Using

Weather-Based Metrics

JC892 U.S. PTO 09/641394

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 1481.0240000

Authorization To Treat A Reply As Incorporating An Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge all required extension of time fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036, if such fees are not otherwise provided for in such reply. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Raymond Millien

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 43,806

Date: 8 3 0

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